

# TOWN Reminder

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Serving the town of South Hadley

www.townreminder.turley.com

## COVID-19 reemerging in South Hadley

*Granby goes  
into red*

By Dalton Zbierski  
and Melina Bourdeau  
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – As the area sees a decrease in temperatures, Granby and South Hadley are seeing an increase in COVID-19 cases.

From Oct. 27 to Nov. 2, South Hadley's confirmed case count increased by seven while its contact case count leaped by 11.

South Hadley's accumulative confirmed case count has now reached 236; it's contact case count stands at 242. There have also been 10 probable cases and nine suspected cases; each category rose by one case between Oct. 27 and Nov. 2.

As of Nov. 2, 25 South Hadley residents have succumbed to the novel coronavirus in 2020.

Please see **COVID**, page 5



Photo by Dalton Zbierski

## South Hadley, Granby favor Biden

### Residents talk coexisting

By Dalton Zbierski  
and Melina Bourdeau

SOUTH HADLEY – As many voters woke up on Nov. 3, everyone could agree the national election would be a historic one.

#### South Hadley unofficial results

As of 2 a.m. on Nov. 5, Vice President Joe Biden led heavily in South

Hadley, accumulating 6,587 votes, which amounted to 65.79% of the total count. At that point, President Donald Trump had received 3,223 votes, 32.19% of all votes.

In South Hadley, Jo Jorgensen earned an additional 143 votes while Howie Hawkins received 59 votes.

Notably, a total of 10,091 voters cast their vote in the election on Tues-

Please see **ELECTION**, page 10

• Alongside her daughter Emily, Mary Bagley identifies her street name and the entrance to the high school assigned to her precinct on Election Day.

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A PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, You who made me see everything and showed me the way to reach my ideal. You, who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and you, who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue want to thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from you no matter how great the material desire may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. Amen. Thank you for your love towards me and my loved ones. Persons must pray the prayer three consecutive days without asking your wish. After third day wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. The promise to publish this dialogue as soon as this favor is granted. I will never stop trusting God and His power.

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TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY MASSACHUSETTS

# Pantry running at full speed

By Dalton Zbierski  
Staff Writer

REGION – The Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry is running like a well-oiled machine, operating at full speed as it works to minimize food insecurity in Granby and South Hadley.

The pantry, located at 30 Carew St. in South Hadley, is all hands on deck in anticipation of a cold winter.

“People are having to turn on their heat, which means on having to choose between heat and food and medicine and all of the other choices that we have to make. Fortunately, we’re here to help them with the food situation,” said NHN Pantry Manager Mary Lou Guarnera.

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the pantry’s demand significantly this year, and new residents continue to seek its services.



Photo by Dalton Zbierski

[Left to right] Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry Manager Mary Lou Guarnera and pantry volunteer Jess Fredrick stand outside the pantry on Nov. 3, displaying fruit and vegetables donated by Granby-based Sapowsky Farms.

As benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program run dry and temperatures below freezing become more commonplace, the pantry is in line to become the community’s saving grace.

There is no glory in going hungry. Putting your pride ahead of your health is an unnecessary risk, as the pantry welcomes all.

“We’re nice, we’re generous, we don’t restrict the number of times you come,” said Guarnera. “When a person goes without food, they can’t work, play, think or learn. Their body just works to live. It’s important to get that food, and if you have to come down and be part of our wonderful family down here, there are worse things.”

Safety has been prioritized by the pantry for years, and there have been

no lapses during the pandemic.

Volunteer workers are assigned to their own aisles inside of the pantry, wear personal protective equipment at all times and deliver meals directly to awaiting residents in their respective vehicles.

When asked, Guarnera jumped at the opportunity to praise the pantry’s volunteers, who she considers to be going above and beyond with smiles on their faces.

“It’s hard not to be enthusiastic because you can see the impact you’re making on people’s lives. That touches your heart,” said Guarnera. “When it’s obvious that you’re making someone’s life better, it just makes your own life better. Anybody that’s not enthusiastic, quite frankly, they don’t stay around long.”

Food is flying off the pantry’s shelves at a rate it has never observed before, but the community’s compassion has kept the operation afloat. Earlier this week, Sapowsky Farms on E. State St. in Granby made a 500-pound donation of fruits and vegetables.

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts in Hatfield also continues to play a vital role. Guarnera noted that the food bank supplies the pantry with thousands of pounds of food on a weekly basis.

Donations are always appreciated, but one is asked to check the expiration date on a food item before gifting it to the pantry. Guarnera and her fellow volunteers were recently given a can of soup that expired in 2013.

Please see **PANTRY**, page 4



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More information regarding the NHN Food Pantry can be located on [nhnfoodpantry.org](http://nhnfoodpantry.org).



# Systemic problems behind Soldiers’ Home tragedy

Staff testify to poor conditions, understaffing

By Dalton Zbierski  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke became a house of horrors this past spring only after years of warnings and complaints were ignored. On Oct. 27 and 29, current and former Soldiers’ Home staff members testified before a Special Joint Oversight Committee comprised of state senators and representatives.

A disastrous combination of neglect, mismanagement and arrogance resulted in the deaths of 76 veterans who resided at the facility, according to staff. The tragedy resulted from an outbreak of COVID-19 that spread through the building like wildfire, sickening 94 additional living residents and 81 employees.

“They’re people that I used to talk to; people that I spent time with and people I looked at as family. To see them going down with no support and no family to say goodbye to; it’s something that I’ll remember for the rest of my life,” said Certified Nursing Assistant Kwesi Ablordeppey, a 20-year employee at the home.

Ablordeppey recalled moving corpses into a body bag and then into a refrigerated unit placed outside of the home. Just as concerning is the fact that Soldiers’ Home staffers were denied personal protective equipment at the onset of the outbreak.

“We didn’t have enough PPE on the floor for the staff,” said Ablordeppey, noting that it had previously been available but mysteriously vanished when needed most.

When Ablordeppey was able to locate PPE, he was scolded and written up by a superior, who questioned the need to don such equipment in front of the veterans. Ablordeppey waved the write-up from the podium at Holyoke Community College during last Tuesday’s hearing.

“I got so angry. I said, ‘What is going

on here?’ They knew that there was something going on and they put the masks away,” he said.

CNA Andrea Fox, a longtime representative of the Massachusetts Nursing Association, shared similar stories on behalf of her members. Fox noted that many employees chose not to testify at the hearing after feeling bullied and intimidated by the facility’s administration.

Fox revealed that staff members were forced to endure traumatic conditions, working countless hours of overtime as COVID-19 ravaged one of western Massachusetts’ finest institutions. She recalled her haunting conversation with Bennett Walsh, the home’s former superintendent, who is now facing 10 criminal charges and decades in jail if convicted.

“When COVID was first discovered in the Soldiers’ Home, I attended a monthly labor management meeting with the former superintendent,” said Fox. “I had to pull teeth to learn that there was a supply of the N95 respiratory masks available. It was our belief that they would provide the most protection for staff and residents. I asked [Walsh] several times, ‘What are you saving them for?’ He refused to distribute them.”

Throughout the hearings staff shared testimony that appeared suitable for a graphic novel. Their stories were far from fictitious, however; employees endured death firsthand on a scale that was unprecedented.

“As healthcare staff, it is expected to have deaths on your watch. However, the magnitude and velocity of deaths was overwhelming,” said Fox. “I spoke with a nurse who described her ride in and seeing a huge refrigerated truck at the entrance. Her description and the image of bodies of veterans on carts alone right outside that building made me almost throw up.”

**Understaffing**

Understaffing was, perhaps, the tragedy’s greatest driving force. For years, if not decades, employees at the home lobbied and protested in an admirable but un-

successful effort to add more colleagues.

Paul Barabani served as superintendent from 2011 until his retirement in 2016. While in his position, Barabani observed the harmful effects of understaffing, as he recalled on Oct. 29.

“There’s just not enough time to do it all. It works on them, and that’s the morale factor,” said Barabani. “I told each employee, ‘I want you to be motivated and look forward to coming to work to serve the veterans and go home at the end of each day feeling good that you did serve them,’ but they couldn’t go home feeling good because there wasn’t enough staff to allow that care.”

Understaffing was often to blame for pressure ulcers, plaguing veterans who remained in the same position for extended periods of time. Barabani described an administration that often betrayed the trust of employees at the home.

Francisco Urena served as the state’s Secretary of Veterans’ Affairs from 2015 until resigning on June 24, following his complicity in the mismanagement of the outbreak. Barabani did not mince words when recalling unsatisfactory interactions with Urena.

On one occasion, a Soldiers’ Home employee broke down in tears at the end of the work day upon realizing she had not gotten to cutting a veteran’s toenails. After consoling his distraught wife, the employee’s husband, also a veteran, later contacted Urena’s office to inquire about the lack of staffing.

Urena elected not to keep the complaint confidential, instead immediately reporting the employee to the administration at the Soldiers’ Home. The following morning, the unknowing female staff member was called to the office and reprimanded for her husband’s communication.

Barabani continued last Thursday, testifying further against Urena’s lack of concern and consideration regarding understaffing at the home. In November 2018, Barabani arranged a meeting for Soldiers’ Home employees to speak to Urena.

“I brought our staff into our conference room and wanted Secretary Urena to hear directly from the staff what their feelings were. He spent more time looking at his phone, texting and not making eye contact; the people who were in that room were insulted and felt that they weren’t being listened to,” said Barabani.

Barabani’s ties to the Holyoke facility run deep. As a child in the 1950s, he often accompanied his parents to the home, where they volunteered in different capacities. Barabani’s father, a World War II veteran, would take his last breaths at the home in 2016.

When Barabani considered applying for the open superintendent position in 2010, his father shared advice that Barabani did not take.

“I have to be honest with you; he advised me not to apply for the position. He probably knew more than I did about the real goings on,” said Barabani.

The complete hearings from Oct. 20, 22, 27 and 29 can be located at [malegislature.gov](http://malegislature.gov).

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at [dzbierski1@turley.com](mailto:dzbierski1@turley.com).

**COVID** from page 1

Fortunately, that number has not shifted since July 21.

In Granby, there are 62 cases of COVID-19, for the dates of Oct. 11 to 24, according to the state’s community-level data map.

The two-week case count is 11 and there have been 15 positive tests in the last 14 days. Granby has a 2.51% positivity rate.

Granby Board of Health member Herbert Abelson said the town is “seeing a real spike in Massachusetts, locally and as a country.”

In Granby, he said the cases are not widespread at this time.

“We have more localized outbreaks related to household spread,” said Abelson. “Some of it could be related to students returning from college and possibly infecting members of their households.”

He added that although people are bored, the importance of using mitigating factors cannot be stressed enough.

“We need to continue all of the ways to mitigate this – wear face masks, socially distancing, staying home – if we don’t do that I don’t see this lessening over time,” Abelson said. “We need to adhere to the advisories from Dr. Tony Fauci...This is an important issue related to health. Stay home, don’t invite people over, I know it’s difficult. All of us are bored and dissatisfied.”

Since Labor Day, the Commonwealth reports that cases have risen by 278% and hospitalizations have increased by 145%.

All this comes as the MA Dept. of Public Health issued a Stay at Home Advisory that will go into effect on Nov. 6. The advisory asks all residents to remain home between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 p.m.

“COVID-19 case numbers in our

state are rising and the Commonwealth’s COVID-19 related hospitalizations and COVID-19 Intensive Care Unit census have more than doubled over the past two months. Social gatherings are contributing to these increases. Left unchecked, the current COVID-19 case growth poses a risk to our healthcare system,” reads the advisory.

Individuals are permitted to leave their homes during the aforementioned time period for work, school and essential needs such as receiving medical care, going to the grocery store or the pharmacy, picking up take-out food or receiving deliveries.

The advisory also encourages resident not to have gatherings inside their homes with anybody from outside of their households. It also suggests using remote models of communication instead of visiting friends or family members.

“Taking these steps is critical to preventing the spread of the virus, protecting the lives of you and your loved ones, and preserving our acute care hospital and other health care systems.”

On Nov. 3, Gov. Charlie Baker reduced the limit on indoor gatherings to 10 people and outdoor gatherings to 25 people. Spiking case counts that are being observed across the state forced his hand.

All gatherings of any size must end and disperse by 9:30 p.m., which will significantly impact many local bars and pubs that opened their kitchens to be able to operate during their pre-COVID hours.

Violating the gathering order will result in a \$500 fine for each person above the limit.

Take-out and delivery of non-alcoholic items is permitted to occur after 9:30p.m.

Baker also mandated that all persons must wear face-coverings in public places both indoors and outside.

Flashback

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November 2, 2012



Kelli Vey of South Hadley, Isabella Murphy and Ella Stevenson, both of Holyoke, strike a pose at a Parks and Recreation’s Halloween event “Jeepers Creepers: Ghouls & Goblins” held at Wistariahurst Museum.



Opinion

GUEST COLUMN

Keeping up with Kyle

The name of feeling is anguish. And it is real. We are all feeling it. Parents. Students. Teachers. Staff. Our postal workers. Our neighbors. The guy who never holds the door for you at Cumberland Farms. The lady who always waves at you when you run by her house.

All of us are feeling it. And, if you watched Monday’s difficult School Committee meeting, you would have seen the way anguish is playing on us all.

Over the last several years, our small crew of meeting participants—the five committee members, the SHEA president, and the administration—has developed a really incredible rhythm. We don’t always agree, but our areas of disagreement represent areas of potential growth and development. We dance to the edge of conflict, and scoot back a couple of steps just in time to rescue the conversation.

We’re kinda good at it, too. But Monday felt really different. Because Monday was different. It was not different in the way our team cares for one another, or, most importantly, the way we care for the students of South Hadley.

It was different because of the sheer volume of immense issues we were facing. Sure, the primary discussion surrounded the potential repopulation of the school. Add to that the impending U.S. Presidential election, combine the swirling uncertainty around guidance and legislation from Boston, and tack on the undeniable rising tide of regional COVID numbers. The weight was palpable.

It was/is/continues to be the perfect storm for tension.

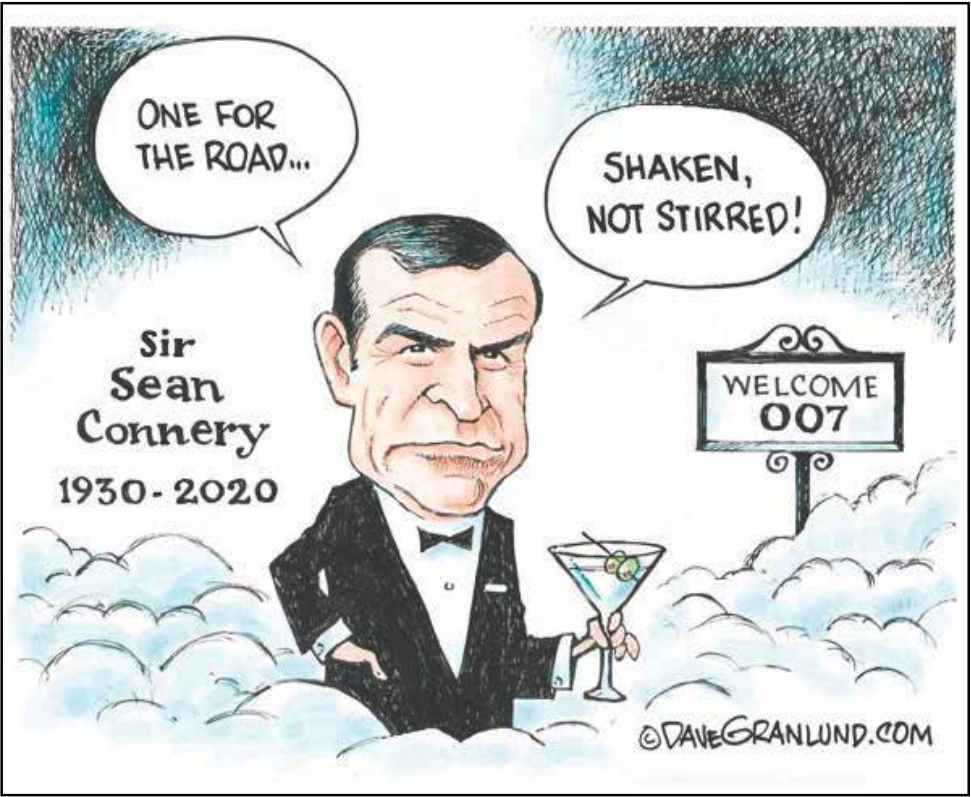
And, boy, was Monday tense, with our anguish playing out on live TV. It was difficult for all of us. It felt hard—it was hard.

For what it’s worth, that’s one of the most difficult parts of this historical moment, from the perspective of public service; not only are there no actual answers, but there is a purposeful lack of direction being given from our state and federal government. It’s maddening.

What is most important to remind ourselves in these moments, though, is that the anguish we feel is a direct product of how deeply we thirst for an equitable and just solution. It is precisely the reason that we all will work even harder to create those solutions, to listen extra hard, to give a little added grace.

Speaking of grace, it is a month usually set aside for expressions of gratitude. So, with that said, please accept this tiny sentence as my “Happy Thanksgiving” to you and yours.

Kyle Belanger is the South Hadley School Committee chair, proud parent of two South Hadley students, and Assistant Professor of Communications at Springfield College. He can be reached at kbelanger@shschools.com.



GUEST COLUMN

An iconic song and an iconic tree commemorate Veterans Day

As we move closer to Veterans Day, our thoughts turn to the many men and women who serve or have served our country, and how we can best remember and support them. I think back to when I was a young adult and a mother from town tied yellow ribbons all over Ware to support her son who was serving overseas. I also remember the fad of those little yellow magnetic ribbons that folks put on their bumper as a show of solidarity. Did you ever wonder where “tie a yellow ribbon” came from? Read on to learn a bit of trivia about an iconic song and an iconic tree.

We’ve all heard the 70s song, sung by Tony Orlando and Dawn that popularized the yellow ribbon and made it the folk symbol that it is today. Legend has it that the inspiration for the song did come from a convict, released from prison and on a long bus ride home. His wife was instructed to tie a yellow ribbon around the oak tree in the center of town if she wished to give him a second chance. If he saw it then he knew to get off the bus. Reportedly the tree was covered in yellow ribbons!

In 1981, eight years after the song’s initial release, it rose in popularity once again. The yellow ribbon became a symbol of loyalty and patriotism for the 52 American hostages being held in Iraq. “If you still want me, whoa, tie a yellow ribbon ‘round the ole oak tree.”

I thought it fitting that the oak tree was chosen to bear such an important symbol of our culture. It is a tall, stately tree and its wood is stronger and more durable than that of most trees, yet to me it is humble. At the height of foliage season an oak doesn’t shout “look at me!” like other trees do. It simply waits for the hoopla put on by the maples to pass, and then it delights us with a subtle beauty that is equally appealing.

Here are some oak tree statistics: There are some 450 species of oak. Some of them are evergreen, holding onto their leaves throughout the winter months. These oaks are located in the more southern, warmer regions of our country. Even though our oaks are deciduous, it takes a long time for them to completely defoliate. Sometimes it is the next season’s emerging leaves that finally push the old ones off. This year it took an

October snowfall. Did you know that oaks get struck by lightning more than any other tree? This is likely due to their height, some topping over 80 feet at maturity.

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid

The oak is a member of the beech or Fagaceae family. One unique feature that the oak has and other members of the family do not is that its nut is carried in a cap. The nut and cap together are called an acorn. Acorns are a valuable food source for wildlife. Wild turkey, deer, larger songbirds and squirrels among others depend on the nut for surviving the winter. One way to tell the difference between species of oak tree is by their acorns. Examine how they wear their “cap.” The cap of the white oak is about one-quarter the size of the oblong shaped nut. The red oak, on the other hand, has a squatty, saucer-like cap covering a more globose shaped nut.

Most oaks tolerate transplanting the best when they are young and small in size. The pin oak is one exception; its shallow, fibrous root system allows it to be transplanted as a larger specimen. For this reason, the pin oak is widely used for home landscaping. It is also highly sought after because of its unique, pyramidal shape: the lowest branches are pendulous, the middle are horizontal and the top are upright.

Did you know that cork is harvested from the bark of a species of oak tree? Yes, the cork oak grows in Spain, Portugal and parts of Northern Africa.

The oak tree can grow to be very old. At the writing of my reference book back in 1983, there was a 400-year-old white oak growing in Maryland by the name of the Wye Oak. It topped off at 95 feet tall, 165 feet wide and eight feet in diameter.

This Veteran’s Day, why not tie a yellow ribbon ‘round your oak tree or better yet, thank a veteran for his or her service.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

A QUOTE

of NOTE  
“It’s been safe, it’s been clean and I couldn’t ask for anything more as a volunteer or as a voter. Voting is an important fundamental right, and in these times it’s really important that we do it in a clean and safe way.”

said volunteer Seth Stutman in the story “South Hadley, Granby favor Biden”

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed. Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to townreminder@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to Town Reminder, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

TOWN Reminder

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# Making Thanksgiving possible for South Hadley’s Seniors

SOUTH HADLEY – It’s often said, million dollar deals are made on the golf course.

In South Hadley, a partnership was formed at the Orchards Golf Club.

In early September, Kim Prough, president of the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors struck up a conversation with Mark Avgoustakis, head chef at the Orchards, about community giving.

Avgoustakis mentioned that he had always wanted to use his culinary skills to give back around the holidays. Prough and Avgoustakis met with Chris Tallman, the Orchards General manager, and Dina Aldrich, the president of the Orchards Women’s Golf Association, and an idea to offer a “Friendsgiving” community meal for South Hadley’s seniors began to take root.

Both Tallman and Aldrich were immediately on board and eager to sponsor the event.

Aldrich and the OWGA quickly got to work organizing



Courtesy photo

(Left to right) Kim Prough, President of the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors; Chris Tallman; Orchards Golf Club General Manager; Dina Aldrich, President of the Orchards’ Women’s Golf Association; and Mark Avgoustakis, Head Chef at the Orchards Golf Club helped to make a Thanksgiving turkey dinner to go for local seniors.

a fundraising raffle to help subsidize the cost of the meal while Tallman and Avgoustakis worked out the logistics of the meal and began to spread the word among the Orchards’ membership.

Together, the orchards and the friends wanted to create this partnership to give back at Thanksgiving, knowing that so many will not be able to get together with friends and family this year.

Tallman, a South Hadley native, commented, “The Orchards Golf Club is excited to partner with the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors in providing a Thanksgiving dinner for the seniors in our town. During this challenging time, it is more important than ever to direct efforts to causes that help those around us. As a community, we will get through these difficult times and be stronger because of it!”

For just \$5, any senior in town can purchase a Friendsgiving turkey dinner “to go” to be picked up at the Orchards on November 24. This will be a con-

tactless, curbside pick up with COVID-19 protocols in place to avoid any face to face contact. Delivery of the meal is available upon request and financial assistance is available for those who may need it. Reservations must be made ahead of time.

As a bonus to the seniors in town, Freddie Marion will be performing a concert on South Hadley’s Channel 15 at 5 p.m. on Nov. 24. This concert is sponsored by the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors and the Orchards Golf Club.

To reserve a meal, please mail \$5 to the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors to P.O. Box 55, South Hadley or drop off your meal request to the Senior Center at 9 E. Parkview St (St Theresa’s Church) in South Hadley.

If delivery or financial assistance is needed please note this with your meal reservation. If you have any questions, please call vice president of the friends, Janet Stawasz at 413-534-5886.

## November children’s happenings “at” the library

SOUTH HADLEY – Children up to age 10 are invited to register for a take and make craft to pick up and create at home. For November we are offering an articulated mix ‘n’ match snake craft. Made from large craft sticks and snaps, this craft is loads of fun for the family to work on together. Visit the library website at: [www.shadleylib.org](http://www.shadleylib.org)

lib.org and click on the November programs and then click on the register button and we will set aside a bag for you. You just have to come to the desk in the lobby and ask a staff person for your child’s craft bag. This craft will be available until Nov. 20. (Please note that you will need to supply your own paint or markers and super glue.)

Zoom Virtual Storytimes are happening on Monday and Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required. Visit the library website at: [www.shadleylib.org](http://www.shadleylib.org) and click on the calendar and then click on the register button. We will email you the link to join us. Immediately following the stories we will create a craft with your children. When the Zoom link is emailed to you, you will also receive a list of materials needed to complete the craft.

Zoom Rhyme Time happens on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required. Register the same way as our virtual story times.

Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. the South Hadley CFCE

Early Childhood Community offers a Zoom Playgroup for families of children ages 5 and under. Register by visiting the library’s Facebook page which can be accessed through the library website.

For questions or more information call the library at 413-538-5045.

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As part of the Halloween event hosted by the Granby Preservation Society, the community dropped off donations for Neighbors Helping Neighbors, a food pantry which serves Granby and South Hadley.



Using extenders, volunteers handed out goodie bags to children at the drive through Halloween event hosted by the Granby Preservation Society last weekend.

Granby Historical Preservation member and event coordinator Dulce Gendreau dressed up as a scary clown as part of the group's outdoor Halloween event. She said the group was pleased at the turn out, serving many people throughout the evening.



## Granby Lions Club announces new community service project

GRANBY – Rather than serving pancakes this month, the Granby Lions Club is instead serving firewood. The Granby Lions Club will be offering partially seasoned firewood, up to quarter of a cord, on Saturday, Nov. 7 in the parking lot at Dressel's Service Station on Rt. 202. Granby residents are invited to stop by from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. with your trailer, small pick-up, or car trunk to receive the firewood. Donations will be accepted for our Granby Lions groundhog fuel assistance fund which helps residents with their heating needs next Feb. 2 through March 16, 2021.

## Holiday bazaar at St. Theresa's Gym

SOUTH HADLEY – Immaculate Heart of Mary is holding their Annual Holiday Bazaar at Saint Theresa's Gym, located on 9 E. Parkview Dr., in South Hadley, on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. This is in accordance with the Board of Health restrictions limiting the number of shoppers in the room, social distancing and with hand sanitizer stations throughout. The holidays are coming and shoppers will find décor for fall, Christmas and year round. Craft vendors will be there showing a variety of items for cooking, jewelry and other accessories. Gift baskets and a lottery ticket tree will be raffled. Join us for fun and find a great holiday gift. For further info., contact the IHM main office at 413-467-9821. There will be ample free parking.

## Help South Hadley plant 500 trees

SOUTH HADLEY – All South Hadley property owners (including residential and business properties) are eligible to receive free saplings to help mitigate the impacts of climate change. Three hundred seventy trees have already been ordered. Get your orders in while inventory is still available. This opportunity is being brought to you through the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant Program. You are able to choose from a catalogue of saplings to ensure that you get a tree best suited for you. All orders are needed by Dec. 1. In spring 2021, you'll be contacted with instructions on where to collect your tree(s). If you are interested in getting a tree but are unable to physically plant one, let the town know and someone will coordinate getting your tree planted for you. There is no limit on the amount of trees you can get. However, the town asks that you only request the amount of trees you can guarantee will survive. For more resources and information (such as the order form, tree catalogue, and more info on the MVP Grant) check out our Tree Planting Campaign Page at <https://www.southhadley.org/1063/Tree-Planting-Program>. With help from Dan Pease at South Hadley's Cable studio, a video announcement was made informing the public about the campaign. If you have additional questions, you can email [conservation@southhadleyma.gov](mailto:conservation@southhadleyma.gov) or give us a call at 413-538-5014 ext. 6123.

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# Baker-Polito administration awards \$3.2 million to support recycling, waste reduction in municipalities

BOSTON – The Baker-Polito Administration announced \$3.2 million in grant funding to 269 municipalities and regional solid waste districts through the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP). The grants will help communities across the Commonwealth maximize their recycling, composting and waste reduction programs.

South Hadley received \$14,300 to “offset costs related to recycling and to educate the public about changes in recycling guidelines,” according to South Hadley Town Administrator Mike Sullivan.

“The cost of recycling collection alone grew last year by over \$100,000, so the small amount received of \$14,300 does not go very far,” Sullivan wrote in an email on Oct. 28. “The cost of recycling as recently as three years ago was nearly self funding, but with the changes in policies and commodity rates from foreign countries (ie. China, Indonesia, Vietnam) which accept our recycled materials caused values to plummet. There are several materials we can no longer accept as we have no place to offload them to in the secondary market.”

All recycling dividend funds stay with recycling costs, including educational material which is often delivered to residents by the contractor, Sullivan added.

“Some of the most important environmental protection work happens every day in communities throughout Massachusetts through local recycling and solid waste programs,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “With this assistance, we are ensuring that local officials, residents

and small business owners can continue protecting the Commonwealth’s neighborhoods and natural resources.”

“Under the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program, municipalities and solid waste districts are working even harder to improve recycling programs and reduce waste, which has resulted in a seven percent increase in funding over last year,” said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. “With these grants, our administration and our local partners are making a difference in communities across the Commonwealth.”

Under SMRP, 227 communities qualified for the Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) and will receive payments ranging from \$2,450 to \$97,500. The RDP recognizes municipalities that have implemented policies and programs proven to maximize materials reuse and recycling, as well as waste reduction. Communities that earn RDP payments must reinvest the funds in their recycling programs for things such as new recycling bins or carts, public education and outreach campaigns, collection of hard-to-recycle items and the establishment of recycling programs in schools, municipal buildings and other public spaces.

“The Baker-Polito Administration is currently working to finalize the Commonwealth’s Solid Waste Master Plan for the next decade, which will establish aggressive goals to reduce our waste disposal and increase recycling,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides. “We are pleased to offer this assistance to help communities cycle resources back into our

economy and support local businesses throughout the collection, processing and manufacturing chain.”

As part of this SMRP grant round, 42 municipalities that did not apply for or qualify for an RDP payment will be awarded a total of \$45,250 for a Small-Scale Initiatives Grant. These population-based grants range from \$500 to \$2,000 each and help communities purchase modest, but critical recycling materials and outreach tools needed to sustain their existing recycling program or to facilitate new, low-cost initiatives. Each of these SMRP programs are administered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

“These new funds give communities the opportunity to make critical investments in their recycling programs, capturing more materials that can be reused, and helping them to reduce their waste disposal costs,” said MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg. “This is another example of MassDEP’s commitment to building strategic partnerships with our local communities.”

The RDP was rolled out in 2014 under MassDEP’s Sustainable Materials Recovery Program, which was created by the Green Communities Act of 2008. The Act requires that a portion of the proceeds from the sale of Waste Energy Certificates (WECs) be directed to recycling programs approved by MassDEP. The SMRP initiative has provided more than \$41.6 million in recycling programs since 2010.

# Granby, South Hadley library collaborative hosts parenting workshops

REGION – Parents of young children are invited to check out great upcoming Collaborative for Education workshops on Zoom, partake from your own home.

Join us for puzzle of parenting workshops. All held virtually this fall.

Email Playgroup Leader, Marti Wiechman at [mwiechman@collaborative.org](mailto:mwiechman@collaborative.org) for the Zoom links.

**Positive solutions session four - teach me what to do!**

In this session we will define the concept of emotional vocabulary, identify feeling words and identify effective ways to teach feeling vocabulary, demonstrate the use of books to support emotional vocabulary and social-emotional development, identify how the turtle technique can be used to cope with feelings of anger and disappointment, and learn how to teach problem-solving skills.

Dates Nov. 12, 19 at 1 p.m.

**Dads rock!**

Being a father and parenting today can sometimes look very different from what dads today may have experienced with their own fathers. This father/child program includes a discussion time with fathers on these changes, their experiences and ways in which they can promote their child’s healthy development and early learning experiences.

Date Nov. 7, 2020 at 1 p.m.

**Granby Library’s Fall Playgroups on Zoom!**

Every Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Join our playgroup leader, Marti live on Zoom for hands on sensory play, plus circle songs and story time.

Everyone is welcome! Ideal for ages birth to seven years.

Email Playgroup Leader, Marti Wiechman at [mwiechman@collaborative.org](mailto:mwiechman@collaborative.org) for the Zoom links.



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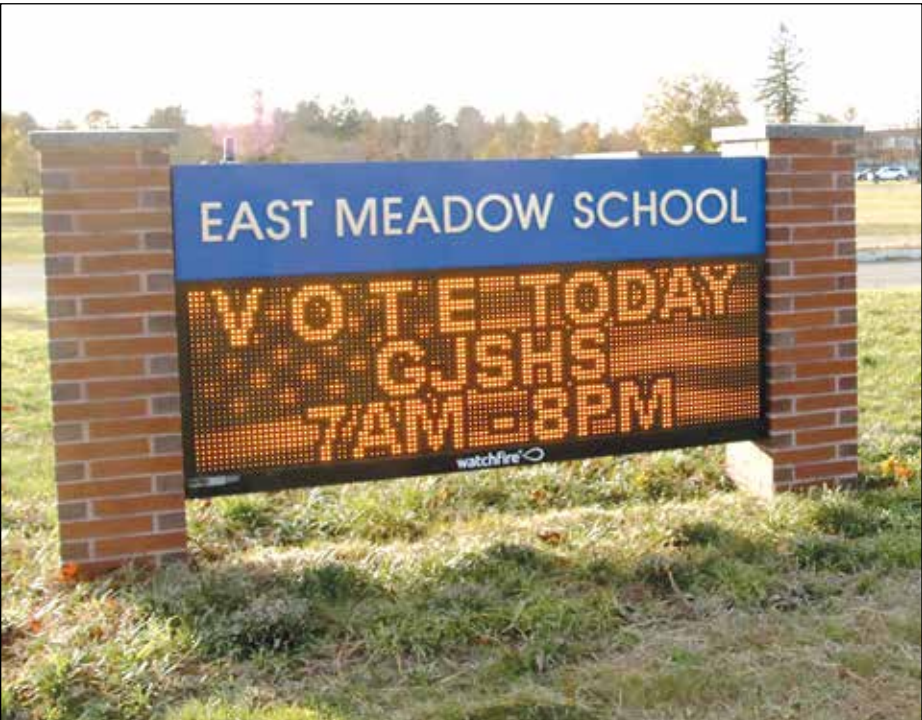


Photo by Melina Bourdeau

Eighty-two percent of voters in Granby cast their vote in the Nov. 3 national election.



Photos by Dalton Zbierski

With the exception of a few profanities he heard, MP Chevette [left] enjoyed campaigning on Election Day outside of the South Hadley High School.

**ELECTION** from page 1

day, an 82.5% turnout, 25.94% of voters cast their ballots in person on Tuesday.

Looking back to the previous national election, there was an increase in early voting from 35.77%, was considered high in the region, to 55.94% in 2020. In 2016, Hilary Clinton received 5,208 votes to Trump’s 3,254, according to the 2016 South Hadley Annual Town Report.

Outside of South Hadley High School on Newton St. on Nov. 3, supporters of both Trump and Biden displayed signs and urged voters to cast a ballot in favor of their preferred presidential candidate.

Cars passing by honked their horns, as residents entered the high school from a variety of entrances. This year, as a measure of precaution amid the COVID-19 pandemic, voters from the town’s five precincts cast ballots in different areas of the school.

On the lawn of the high school, Trump and Biden supporters coexisted cordially. While each side’s rooting interests differed drastically, the democratic process prevailed.

“Sometimes you’re going to have some words back and forth, but as long as it’s not violent and nasty, that’s fine. Not everybody will agree, but we’re all Americans. We’re all here together and I think fighting for the same thing,” said Heather Hodnicki, waving a Trump flag.

Lucia Foley was on-hand to support Biden as a member of the town’s Democratic Town Committee. Noting that she and her peers arrived earlier than the Republican supporters, Foley was encouraged by the atmosphere that

she observed.

“Free speech is a good thing,” said Foley. “It’s nice to be able to be out here and show our support for the candidate of the Democratic Party. We’re happy to be here.”

Mary Bagley arrived with her family and was instantly impressed by the display of patriotism she witnessed. For months, she anticipated Election Day, and the scene at the high school did not disappoint.

“This year, especially, there has been lots of enthusiasm. There’s been a lot of excitement leading up to today. We really appreciate the town; a lot of people volunteered their time today to make sure we’re safe,” said Bagley.

Seth Stutman volunteered to spend the day as an election worker, directing voters to the respective entrances that aligned with their precincts. Stutman shared what drew him to participate.

“A lot of people can make financial gifts, and others can give of their time. I could give of my time so I was really excited to come out and help democracy work,” he said. “It’s great to watch so many people come out of all ages. To be able to live in a town that can have such a vibrant election means that it’s a fantastic town.”

Stutman added that he hadn’t seen any foul play; supporters of both parties were behaving themselves, standing feet away from each other during their last second campaigning efforts.

“At the end of the day, today is all about coming out and giving your vote. Thus far, people have been able to do it in a civil manner” said Stutman. “It’s been safe, it’s been clean and I couldn’t ask for anything more as a volunteer or as a voter. Voting is an important fundamental



Heather Hodnicki and Scott Moore wave Trump flags to vehicles on Newton St. on Nov. 3.

right, and in these times it’s really important that we do it in a clean and safe way.”

South Hadley residents also favored reelecting Sen. Ed Markey, who received 6,465 votes to Republican candidate Kevin O’Connor’s 3,244. Markey won at the state level as well.

Rep. Richard Neal also won reelection in Granby and statewide, running unopposed on the ballot.

Similarly, Councillor Mary Hurley, Sen. Jo Comerford, Rep. Dan Carey and Register of Probate Michael Carey won reelection to their respective positions. Each candidate ran unopposed.

As far as ballot questions, voters in South Hadley reflected the state’s results, in favor of question one and against question two.

Question one, referred to as the “right to repair” law received 7,638 votes in favor and 2,035 votes opposed.

On question two, which would have allowed ranked-choice voting, there were 4,304 voters in favor and 5,355 opposed.

**Granby unofficial results**

Voters in Granby certainly showed up to voice their opinion with a total of 82% turnout in the national election with 3,945 of 4,855 voters who cast their ballot.

In 2016, 1,447 voters voted early, 31% of Granby’s registered voters, according to the 2016 Annual town report.

Granby Town Clerk Kathy Kelly-Regan reported that “the amount that showed up on Nov. 8 was 2,294 voters, it was nice to see so many voters come out to support their candidates and the questions.”

There were 4,662 registered voters in Granby in 2016. The percentage of voters who voted in this election was 80.5%.

Similarly to South Hadley, Granby voters were in favor of Biden, with 2,039 for the former vice president and 1,802 votes for Trump.

Compared to the last national election, there was a closer presidential race – with 1,651 votes for Clinton to 1,699 votes for Trump.

On the state level, Sen. Markey was favored in Granby over O’Connor with 2,016 to 1,698 votes, respectively.

Neal, Hurley, Daniel Carey and Michael Carey also won in Granby. Rep. Mindy Domb won reelection both in Granby and at regional level and Sen. Eric Lesser won reelection as well.

On the ballot questions, Granby also reflected the statewide results – in favor of question one and against question two.

There were 3,009 voters in favor of question one and 754 against. On question two, 1,355 Granby voters were in favor and 2,474 were opposed.



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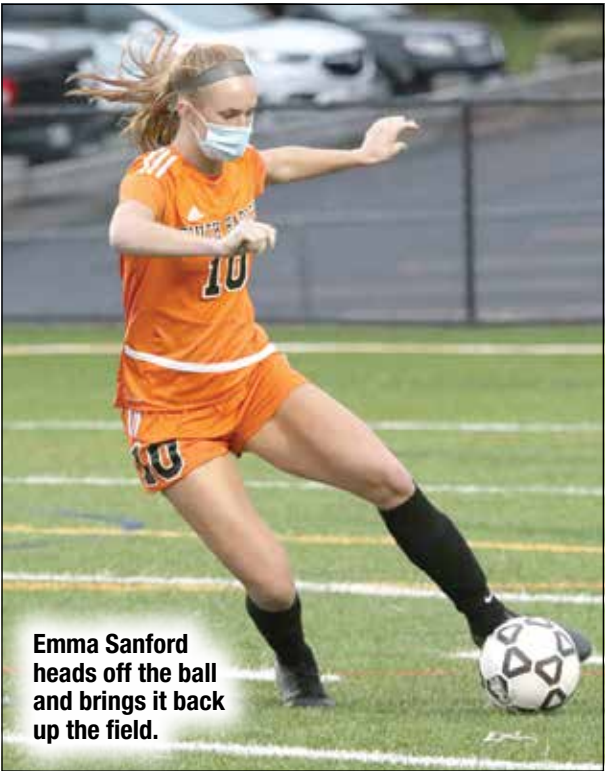


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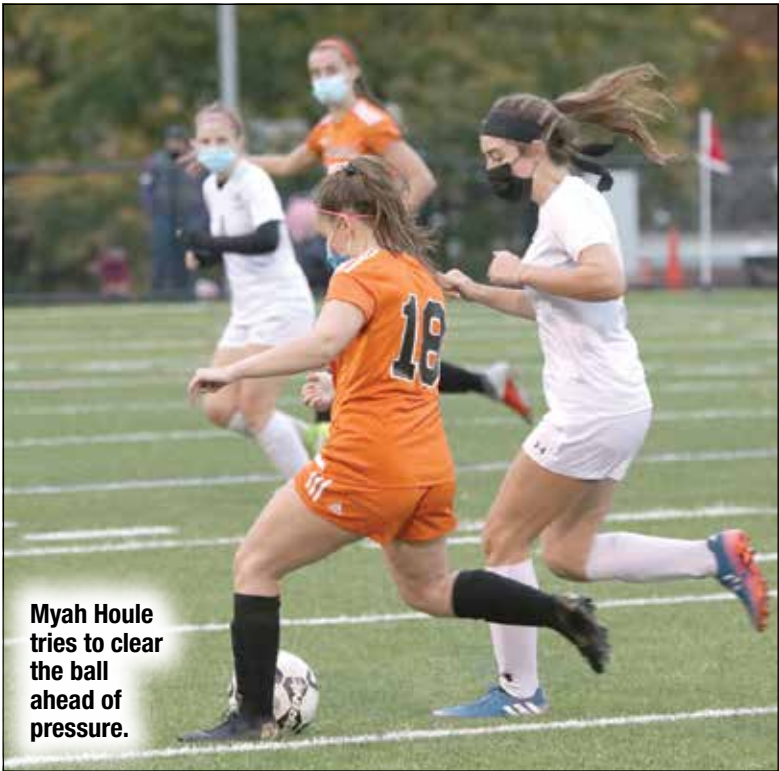
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Emma Sanford heads off the ball and brings it back up the field.



Myah Houle tries to clear the ball ahead of pressure.

## Rams get by Pioneers

By Tim Peterson  
*Sports Correspondent*

PALMER – Sophomore goalkeepers Patrick French and Daniel Gauvin have split playing time for the Granby boys’ varsity soccer team this fall.

French was scheduled to be the Rams starting keeper in a road match against the Pathfinder Pioneers. Gauvin was slated to replace him at the start of the second half.

Those plans had to be scrapped by Rams head coach Todd Dorman after French was injured during pre-game warmups. Gauvin was inserted into the starting line-up and nearly posted his first varsity shutout, as the Rams defeated the Pioneers, 3-1, last Monday afternoon (October 26).

“We’ve been training two goalkeepers all season, which was very important in today’s match.” Dorman said. “Both of them are very good goalies and we’re looking forward to having them on our soccer team for the next two years.”

Please see **RAMS**, page 12



Elyse Manzi passes away before running into an opponent.



Paige Marjanski passes the ball away.



Anna Evans takes the ball up the field.

Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Roman Bullock fights through the middle of the field for Granby.

## Marjanskis tally twice each in win over Ware

SOUTH HADLEY – Paige and Lauren Marjanski scored two goals each in an 8-0 win over Ware last Tuesday afternoon. Jaidan Luis, Teagan Gawron, Myah Houle, and Emma Sanford scored single goals. Goalie Rylee Suchinez had six saves and picked up the shutout.



Jon Kiely chases down a ball in the defensive end.

## Tigers trounce Indians

SOUTH HADLEY – South Hadley boys soccer completely dominated visiting Ware last Monday afternoon 10-1. Ashton Sanford had a hat trick

with three goals. Seven others also had goals, including Theo Abrams, Max McCurdy, Caidan Lipp, and Charlie Anischik.



Colin Quinn looks at a teammate while possessing the ball.



Ashton Sanford takes possession of the ball for the Tigers.



Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Caidan Lipp advances up the field.



# More ‘red’ communities as fall season winds down

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – More communities in Western Massachusetts have gone “into the red” during the past week thanks to what government officials are describing as increase in gatherings where people are not observing proper safety protocols.

The actions have filtered down to high school sports as some communities in the red are forced to postpone or cancel action.

Holyoke has fully canceled the remainder of its fall sports season after spending three consecutive weeks labeled as “high-risk” for COVID-19 spreading. Holyoke was in the red for the fourth time last Thursday.

Joining Holyoke, however, are a whole host of communities in the region. Last Thursday, it was revealed Agawam, Westfield, West Springfield, Granby, and Palmer had

joined Holyoke with the designation. Chicopee remained in the red for a second straight week. Monson was red last week, and managed to move down a category to the yellow, moderate risk, designation.

Per the results of the latest numbers, Granby and Palmer have temporarily ceased operations for at least a week, and two in the case Granby.

Athletic Director Alison Jordan said Granby will not be able to play high school sports for at least two weeks. Granby fit in a pair of soccer games with South Hadley last Wednesday afternoon prior to the state numbers coming out. Because of daily COVID-19 test numbers coming in, Granby town officials were aware of the fact the town would soon be labeled high-risk. This is the second time Granby is in the red. It happened prior to the high school season in early September, but only lasted for one week.

Due to local protocols, sports had to be shut down. The same is true in Palmer, where games are postponed

through at least Thursday, Nov. 5. Games Friday are still on the schedule in hopes Palmer gets out of the high-risk designation when new numbers are released on Thursday. However, Pathfinder Regional remains playing this week. Pathfinder, which has students in numerous communities in the surrounding area, is located in Palmer.

Agawam, Westfield, and Chicopee continue to play sports despite their high-risk designation.

However, in the case of Chicopee, if the city continues in the red this Thursday, both Chicopee and Chicopee Comprehensive could be forced to shut down their sports at least temporarily.

Agawam remains playing into this week, though their schedule is set to wind down in the next week or so with the final week and a half remaining for makeup games.

The fall season is set to conclude on Nov. 20. There are no postseason tournaments planned, including any league tournament through the PVIAC as of press time.

# Racing will return to Thompson Speedway Motorsports in 2021

THOMPSON, Conn. — The high banks of Connecticut’s Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park will roar once again in 2021. American-Canadian Tour (ACT) and Pro All Stars Series (PASS) have announced a six-event schedule for the coming season that features the new Thompson Outlaw Open Modified Series.

The Outlaw Open Series consists of half a dozen high-paying events for Tour-type Modifieds that are expected to attract the top teams in the region. The series begins at the 46th annual Thompson Icebreaker from Friday, April 9 to Sunday, April 11. A 150-lap, \$10,000-to-win Outlaw Open Series event will highlight the weekend card.

The stakes get even higher at the season-ending 59th annual Sunoco World Series of Speedway Racing from Friday, October 8 to Sunday, October 10. ACT and PASS have organized the return of the historic Thompson 300, which was last contested in 2005. A \$20,000 minimum prize has been posted for the winner of the 300-lap showdown.

In addition, ACT and PASS are selling \$50 lap sponsorships for the Thompson 300. All laps that are sold will award the full \$50 to the leader of that lap. This means a driver could earn up to \$35,000 that weekend.

Four other events are scheduled in-between the Icebreaker and World Series. The additional race dates are Wednesday, June 16; Wednesday, July 7; Wednesday, Au-

gust 11; and Wednesday, September 8. These dates were chosen to minimize conflict with other tracks and series in the region, allowing teams and fans to attend as many events as they wish.

The Outlaw Open Series features at the Wednesday events will pay at least \$5,000-to-win and potentially more. Furthermore, drivers and teams that attempt to qualify for all six events will be eligible for potential provisional starting spots at the Thompson 300.

“We think the Outlaw Open Modified Series is going to be huge for teams and fans,” ACT managing partner Cris Michaud said. “The open-event model for the Modifieds has gotten a lot of traction in recent years, and we got to see it first-hand at the most recent World Series. We’re especially excited for the return of the Thompsonxf 300. Somebody will be walking away with at least \$20,000 that weekend, and it’s going to take the intensity to a whole other level.”

Thompson Speedway’s local divisions will also be part of all six events, including the Sunoco Modifieds, Late Models, Limited Sportsmen/Street Stocks, SK Light Modifieds, and Mini Stocks. Although details are still being finalized, ACT and PASS officials hope to organize special events for the local divisions throughout the summer, giving each class a chance in the spotlight.

A variety of touring series and open shows will also be

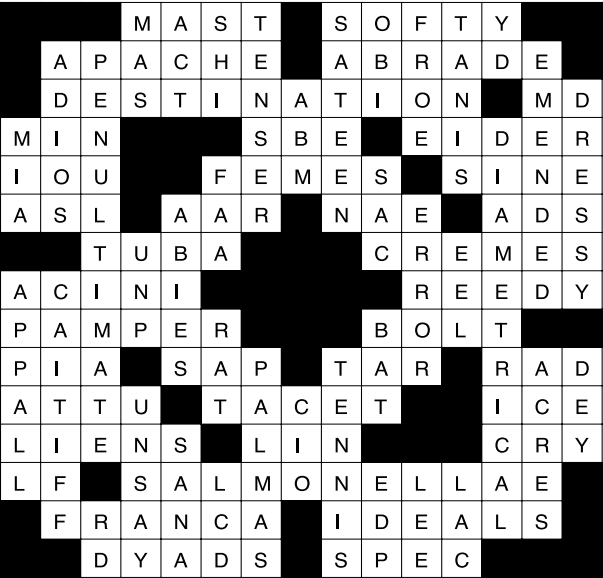
part of the Icebreaker and World Series weekends. More information regarding all events will be announced over the coming weeks.

“The most important part of all of this is that Thompson oval track racing will continue,” PASS owner Tom Mayberry said. “We were very satisfied with how the Thompson 150 and World Series went in 2020, and those events showed the appetite is still there for racing in eastern Connecticut. With those events to build on, we think the excitement for Thompson Speedway is going to be even bigger in 2021.

For more information about the American-Canadian Tour, contact the ACT offices at (802) 244-6963, media@acttour.com, or visit www.acttour.com. You can also get updates on Facebook and Twitter at @ACTTour.

For technical information concerning all PASS divisions, and for media or marketing questions, please contact passracing@roadrunner.com or visit www.proallstarseries.com. Don’t forget to “Like” the Pro All Stars Series on Facebook or follow on Twitter @PASSSLM14 to keep up with breaking news as it happens.

For general Thompson Speedway inquiries, call (860) 923-2280, email oval@thompsons Speedway.com, or visit www.thompsons Speedway.com. You can follow Thompson Speedway on Facebook and Instagram at @Thompson-Speedway or on Twitter at @ThompsonSpdwy.



**RAMS** from page 11

Gauvin, who had started a couple of matches, only had to make three saves in posting the Rams first road victory of the season.

It was also the Rams (2-4) second consecutive victory. “This is another good win for us,” Dorman said. “We came out and were able to control the game right from the beginning.”

Granby got into the win column for the first time this season following a 6-1 home victory against Ware on October 20.

The Pioneers (1-4) also celebrated a 1-0 victory at Ware on October 8.

Pathfinder head coach Kevin Aldrich was satisfied with his team’s effort in the only meeting of the season against Granby.

“We did play with a little more effort in today’s game than we did in our past several games,” Aldrich said. “We managed to keep them from scoring any goals during the second half.”

A year ago, Granby posted a 2-0 victory over Pathfinder, which was played at a St. Joe’s Field.

Granby is one of the communities within the Pathfinder Regional School district.

The only member of the Pathfinder boys soccer team, who lives in Granby, is senior defender Wyatt Seibert.

“Wyatt is one of our captains and he lives in Granby,” Aldrich said. “He told me that he had this game circled on his schedule and he was extremely excited about it.”

Despite a couple of early scoring chances by the Rams, last Monday’s match remained scoreless until the end of the opening quarter.

Granby junior Tyler Sudsbury broke the ice with four minutes remaining in the first quarter by blasting a shot into the upper right corner past Pathfinder senior goalkeeper Austin Tocci (10 saves) for an unassisted goal.

A couple of minutes later, Granby senior Nolan Sullivan beat three defenders in the box for a loose ball before putting a shot into the back of the net for another unassisted goal.

In the middle of the second quarter, Pathfinder senior Devin Bedard lined a shot that was deflected off the crossbar by Gauvin. The ball came straight down and Gauvin was able to make the save before it crossed over the line.

“Daniel did a very good job during the entire match,” Dorman said. “He did make a big save during the first half, which helped protect the lead. We managed to keep the momentum after that.”

The Rams would increase their lead to 3-0 a minute later following another unassisted goal by sophomore Roman Bullock.

Both teams were held scoreless during the third quarter.

A set shot taken by Pathfinder senior Ethan Farrar from about 25 yards out six minutes into the final quarter sailed into the back of the net ending Gauvin’s shutout bid.

“It was a great shot by Ethan,” Aldrich said. “He scored a similar goal in our win against Ware.”

The Rams outshot the Pioneers 22-11.

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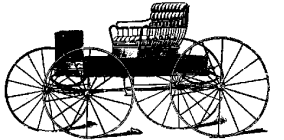
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**2006 Saturn Relay**  
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**2008 Subaru Impreza**  
JF1GE61628h514568 Angella Vazquez  
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**2007 Audi A4**  
WAUDF78E57A044473 Maria Inostroza Baez  
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YV1CZ592X51216132  
Jacqueline Pabon  
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Upright post on a boat

5. Sentimental person

10. Native American tribe

12. Wear away

14. Where you're going

16. Doctor

18. Popular Chinese dialect

19. One point east of due south

20. Northern sea duck

22. Note

23. Wives (law)

25. Trigonometric function

26. A way to communicate (abbr.)

27. Swiss river

28. No (Scottish)

30. Commercial

31. Large instrument

33. \_\_\_ Chantilly, \_\_\_ de Menthe

35. Small, saclike cavities

37. High and thin in tone

38. Treat extremely well

40. Famed track star Usain

41. Secure web connection (abbr.)

42. Rob of energy

44. Paving material

45. Cool!

48. Tip of Aleutian Islands

50. Indicates silence

52. Water in the solid state

53. Security interests

55. Popular hoopster

56. Shed tears

57. Low frequency

58. Harmful bacterium

63. Common language: lingua \_\_\_

65. Standards of perfection

66. They consist of two parts

67. A detailed description of design

CLUES DOWN

1. More (Spanish)

2. A subdivision of a play

3. Japanese title

4. More jittery

5. Fabric

6. Luke's mentor \_\_\_ - Wan

7. Cleaving tool

8. Ancient city of Egypt

9. 36 inches

10. Farewell

11. Second to last

13. Improved by critical editing

15. Defensive weapon (abbr.)

17. Fancy attire

18. \_\_\_ Farrow, actress

21. Completely opposed

23. Supervises flying

24. Pouch

27. True firs

29. Mistake

32. Computing platform (abbr.)

34. Snake-like fish

35. Greatly horrify

36. Despicable person

39. Tell on

40. Ballplayer's tool

43. Central Brazilian town

44. Court game

46. Land

47. "The Partridge Family" actress Susan

49. Retract a statement

51. Data executive

54. Capital of Yemen

59. Portable computer screen material

60. Electronic data processing

61. "Matt Houston" actor Horsley

62. Resinous substance

64. Rural delivery

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# Culinary students taking hands-on approach

By Dalton Zbierski  
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – Culinary students at South Hadley High School are taking a hands-on approach as remote learning continues. Culinary Arts and Hospitality Instructor Ezra Bleau explained that absorbing knowledge from a distance hasn’t been a problem for his students.

“The whole idea of what is happening with vocational education in the classroom during COVID is pretty interesting,” said Bleau. “The students are learning, they’re participating; they’re not just sitting there with their cameras off listening to me lecture.”

Bleau’s curriculum is not limited to the kitchen. As part of the vocational program, he also teaches entrepreneurship, health and safety, technology and academics.

Each year, eighth-grade students elect to participate in Beau’s courses. During times of normalcy, they spend two-and-a-half hours in Bleau’s classroom every day for four years.

While Bleau now leads his lessons online, the dynamic remains

the same. The instructor has found new, creative ways to ensure that his students are making the most of virtual learning; he described a recent exercise.

“I had bags of ingredients that I had students pick up on Mondays, and when they got home, they were able to break down the ingredients. Then, the following day, we prepared chocolate chip cookies online, all together,” said Bleau, who enjoyed engaging in the same activity simultaneously.

Bleau has been moved by his students’ willingness to pursue their passions despite the obstacles that have appeared. He feels obligated to educate them on all aspects of the restaurant business.

“Right now, we’re teaching entrepreneurship,” he said. “Students are creating their own products and designing their own company and restaurant. They’re going to actually create a pitch that they’ll pitch to me and several other teachers.”

Bleau believes that many vocational students chose their current path because they enjoy hands-on learning. Therefore, he felt compelled to dig deeper in anticipation of the school year.

“I had to rewrite my lessons and ended up actually having to change everything,” he said.

Prior to the pandemic, Bleau dismissed the concept of teaching a culinary course online. Of course, his stance has shifted over the past eight months.

“There was a college that came out with ‘Culinary Arts’ online years ago,” said Bleau. “I always chuckled at that notion like, ‘How do you teach culinary online?’ I think this is a little karma coming back at me. Now it’s like, ‘How do I do it?’”

Bleau feels as though all aspects of education can benefit from the events that have occurred in 2020 and the subsequent innovations that resulted. He is confident that, one day, hands-on learning will become far more prevalent in local schools.

“I think that this will change education forever, which is a good thing. I think it’s a good change,” said Bleau. “We need to pivot more than we’ve ever done before and be able to work on the fly and realize that mistakes happen. You have to learn from them.”

Dalton Zbierski is a staff writer and can be reached at [dzbierski@turley.com](mailto:dzbierski@turley.com).

## Public Safety

# TommyCar Auto Group, Hampshire County Sheriff’s Dept. to do ‘No Shave November’

HADLEY –TommyCar Auto Group, a local company that operates five car dealerships in Hampshire County, is joining forces with the Hampshire County Sheriff’s Office and Sheriff Patrick Cahillane for their ‘No Shave November’ campaign to raise awareness and funds for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

For the second year, the auto group will match whatever funds are raised by the Sheriff’s Department, and is also encouraging customers to donate their TommyCar Rewards points toward the cause. Last year, the Sheriff’s Office raised \$2,700, which doubled to a total donation of \$5,400 to Dana-Farber with the matching funds from TommyCar Auto Group.

“We are grateful to again have this opportunity to partner with the Hampshire County Sheriff’s Department, and are delighted that they are willing to support such a worthwhile cause,” said Carla Cosenzi, who co-owns TommyCar Auto Group with her brother, Tom Cosenzi. “The Dana-Farber Can-

cer Institute is near and dear to our hearts due to the outstanding care they provided to our father. This campaign is part of our ongoing commitment to honor his memory.”

No Shave November is devoted to increasing cancer awareness while raising funds to support cancer prevention, research, education about cancer prevention, as well as those fighting the battle. It’s a month-long journey in which participants forgo shaving and grooming to evoke conversations about cancer awareness.

Throughout the month of November, deputies and staff at the Hampshire County Sheriff’s Department will have the opportunity to opt out of dress code and grow out their facial hair with their donation of \$20 to TommyCar Auto Group’s Tom Cosenzi Driving for the Cure Charity Golf Tournament. Over the past 12 years, the annual tournament has raised more than \$1 million to support brain tumor research at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

The Center for Neuro-Oncology at

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute/Brigham and Women’s Cancer Center, under the leadership of Director Patrick Wen, MD, has achieved cancer breakthroughs in the disease’s biology, drug design and patient care. Dr. Wen and his research team now seek to broaden the understanding of CNS cancers’ molecular pathology and bolster research with a robust clinical trial program to identify drugs that can target these diseases directly.

“My brother and I understand what these patients and families are going through firsthand,” said Cosenzi. “That’s why we are so committed to help raise funds to help find a cure, and why we are grateful for the support from the Hampshire County Sheriff’s Office.”

To learn more about the Tom Cosenzi Driving for the Cure Charity Golf Tournament, visit [tomcosenzidivingforthecure.com](http://tomcosenzidivingforthecure.com). Those interested in making a donation to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute may do so by visiting <https://bit.ly/3lftT146>.

# Baystate hosts a webinar series on Nov. 12

SPRINGFIELD – Baystate Health’s Women’s Health Network will hold a webinar series, “How We Thrive: Conversations on Health and Wellness,” beginning on Nov. 12 with a “Community Conversation on Cervical Cancer: Prevention, Intervention and Treatment.”

The event is being held in collaboration with the Dana Farber/Harvard Cancer Center – Center for Cancer Equity and Engagement.

Topics for the webinar, which will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m., will be causes and risk factors for cervical cancer, barriers to care and advocacy for health equity, clinical trials and a survivor’s story.

Among the speakers for the webinar are Dr. Tashanna K. Myers,

chief of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at Baystate Medical Center. Other speakers include Cherece Burston, CHW, who will speak on barriers; Tonya Ward, who will speak from a survivor perspective; and patient navigator Nancy Pena, OPN-CG, CMI, BS.

The goal of the series is to promote critical dialogue on health and wellness and to support our community’s ability to thrive during these challenging times. Each webinar will feature a keynote speaker and/or panelists on various topics related to health disparities, cancer prevention and social justice.

Baystate Health’s Women’s Health Network (WHN) is part of a state-wide network of providers,

funded since 2018 by MA Department of Public Health. The WHN goal is to decrease breast and cervical cancer morbidity and mortality among all women, specifically Black, Latina, Muslim, and low income/other hard to reach populations. This initiative is locally based at Baystate Mason Square Neighborhood Health Center and includes Caring Health Center and Gandara as partners.

Register at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZAvcuip-pjMjE91Yvc55hXQUX-C6l2UyB-z6V> to attend and receive webinar access information.

For questions, contact Kimothy Jones at [Kimothy.Jones@Baystate-Health.org](mailto:Kimothy.Jones@Baystate-Health.org)



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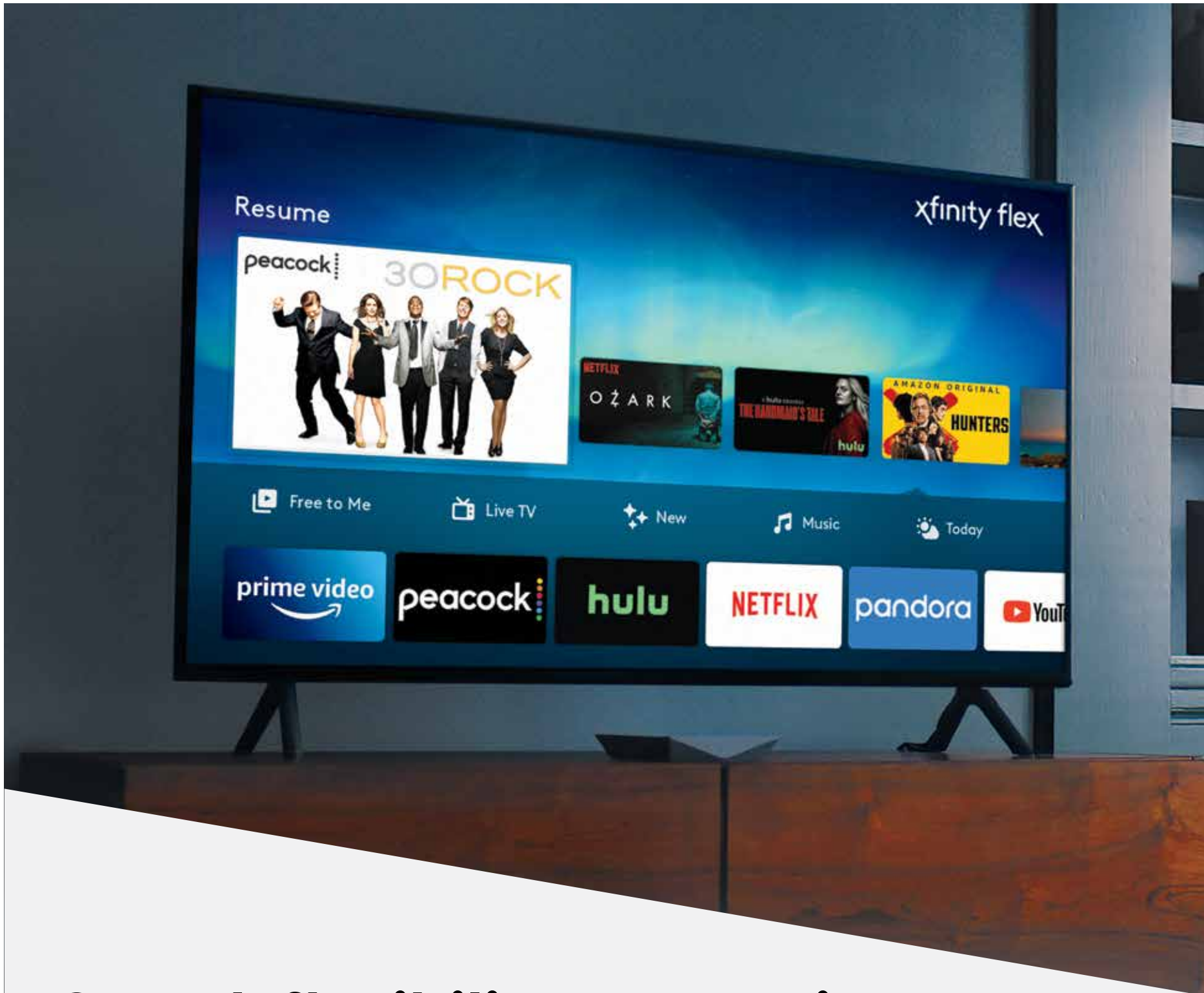
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